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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT Socio-Political Report on VORKUTA		(Interviewer) WOLF, Paul (FN)	(Editor) Sharp
AREA REPORTED ON VORKUTA, USSR		FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW (USAFE)	
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PREPARED BY (Officer) HALBERT H. ACKER, Lt. Col., USAF		SOURCE 216177	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) (B-3350s)			

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

1. S was born on 12 Sep 1917 at GROSS-ROEHRSDORF/Oberlausitz. He attended the elementary school for eight (8) years, learned the trade of a confectioner with three (3) years apprenticeship and two (2) years as journeyman. His knowledge of Russian was such, according to his statements, that he was able to make himself clearly understood with Russians and that he could also talk with them about political subjects.

2. After his transfer to the SOVIET UNION, SOURCE was held in a prison at ORSHA (5430N/3027E) from Aug 49 to Sep 49. From here he was transferred to the civilian forced labor camp # 9 in the area of VORKUTA (6730N/6100E) where he remained from Sep 49 to Jun 53. Being an invalid with a stiff leg, S was capable of performing light work only. He was employed intermittently as a cook in the kitchen of his camp, as a laborer in the town area where he cleared snow or did other cleaning chores, and occasionally as a surface laborer near a coal mine. S's camp billeted forced laborers from the Soviet Union and many foreign countries. In addition to his co-prisoners, S had contact with many free workers whom he met either in the town of VORKUTA or in his camp where they were employed. He also had contact with inhabitants of a small village named RUTNIK (coordinates unknown), located in the immediate vicinity of his camp. Much of his info about political subjects, S obtained from a Soviet co-prisoner, a professor named STATNIKOW (S's phonetic spelling) who spoke German and who had good connections with the outside world. From Jun 53 to Jul 53, S was transferred to TAPIAU (5439N/2105E) where he remained in the release camp until Dec 53, the month of his repatriation to Germany.

a. Being a civilian prisoner of the MVD, S was sentenced to twenty five (25) years forced labor by an MVD court in POTSDAM (5224N/1304E) for having allegedly been a spy for the U.S. The following events led to this trial: In spring 48 S made several illegal border crossings between the U.S. and Soviet zone of Germany in order to visit his divorced wife who resided in the Soviet Zone. In the RR station of HOF (5015N/1155E) on the western side of the zone border, he met a man named Peter SAUER, living in a village near ERLANGEN (4936N/1101E). SAUER told S he collected info about Soviet military installations in the Soviet Zone, showing him a list of things he was interested in. This list was a type-written sheet of paper enumerating such items as Soviet military units, airfields, types of planes etc. When S was caught by an E German border guard in May 48, while trying to cross the border, he was held in two (2) prisons on remand at MEININGEN (5033N/1025E) and OHRDRUF (5049N/1044E). In a prison cell he met a

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E. FORCED LABOR CAMPS:

23. S always was in the same camp from Sep 49 to Jun 53. The camp had the number 9, Russian designation of "camp" was OLB (S's phonetic spelling). It belonged to the coal mine # 8. It was one (1) of about sixty (60) forced labor camps in the VORKUTA area. Its distance from the town of VORKUTA was about three (3) km. A village named RUTNIK was in the immediate vicinity of the camp. The camp had about 3,800 inmates. In addition to the Soviet political and criminal inmates, the following foreign prisoners were in the camp: seven (7) Frenchmen, twenty four (24) Hungarians, fifteen (15) Romanians, ten (10) Chinese, two (2) Japanese, three (3) Koreans, one (1) Indian, one (1) Mongolian (of Inner Mongolia), two (2) to three (3) Finns, one (1) Norwegian, one (1) Italian, two (2) Czechs, one Turk, one (1) Greek, fifteen (15) Poles, 300 Germans, twenty eight (28) Austrians, two (2) Dutchmen and one (1) U. S. citizen. Main work of the prisoners was in the coal mine. Those unable to work in the mines for physical reasons were assigned to transportation work for the mines and for odd jobs in the camp and town area. About 400 was the average number of in-patients in the hospital of the camp. Among the physically handicapped, there were again several groups depending on the degree of their disability. When S left, the camp had still about the same total number of inmates. With S's group, sixty (60) German and forty (40) other foreigners were repatriated.

24. S could remember the following non-Soviet prisoners of his camp:

a. U.S. citizen, name unknown, profession: engineer. He spoke only English. S played chess with him often. He said he had been employed by the Russians as an engineer in VLADIVOSTOK (4308N/13154E), arrested for alleged sabotage and sentenced to twenty five (25) years. He was about forty five (45) years old, slender figure, dark hair, tanned face, head bent forward when walking, left hand crippled with crooked fingers, dark colored teeth. He was undernourished and in a bad health condition. While in S's camp, he was an in-patient of the fourth STATIONAR (ward). He was there when S arrived, disappearing a few weeks thereafter, possibly being transferred to another camp. He played chess. Although not playing very well, he was very ambitious and when he lost he asked to play over and over again until he had won a game.

b. John FAUD, Indian, about thirty nine (39) years old, 180 cm tall, slender figure forward-bent gait, lower lip drooping. He was in the camp throughout the reported time. He had a twenty five (25) year sentence. S did not know the reason. He performed light work in the barracks area. He was a chiromancer and predicted S's future from his hand. S said the predictions so far had come true.

c. Norwegian, name unknown, fisherman from NARVIK (6825N/1730E). He was over sixty (60) years old, arrived in 51 because he had by mistake steered his ship into Soviet territorial waters. For espionage he got a twenty five (25) years sentence. He was still in the camp in Jun 53, but S could not remember whether or not he was among the group of foreigners who were repatriated. He was about 165 cm tall, had white hair, slim figure, being always very quiet and dejected, seldom talking to anybody. Because of his age, he did not have to work.

d. Pierre QUIVAR, Frenchman, about fifty (50) years old, 162 cm tall, hooked nose, dense dark hair mixed with gray, forward bent spine. He was sentenced on 11 Nov 48 in POTSDAM to twenty five (25) years hard labor, the same day on which S was given his sentence. He also was released at the same time as S. Pierre QUIVAR had worked in the market halls in PARIS, but mainly lived in another town, the name of which S could not remember. This was the same town where Nikolay GREGOREWITSCH had been. When they talked about this, the latter procured a work place in the camp kitchen for Pierre QUIVAR.

e. Korean colonel, unknown name, about sixty two (62) years old, military figure, square face, interned in camp throughout the reported time.

f. Bob KURT, Dutchman, about forty (40) years old, 170 m tall, dark gray

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hair, stout figure. He arrived from another camp in 52 and was released together with S. KURT had emigrated to Germany in 1932 and was an SS officer in WW II. He succeeded posing as an invalid walking on crutches. After his release he learned to walk without crutches with remarkable speed. He spoke German with Dutch accent.

g. Other Dutchman, first name Jan, surname unknown, about twenty two (22) years old, fair hair, long face, 180 cm tall, suffering from epileptic fits. S believed him to be a criminal prisoner. He spoke German perfectly. He often stole his co-prisoners' property. He was still in the camp when S was released.

h. Italian missionary, unknown name, about forty (40) years old, 168 cm tall, wearing glasses, slender figure, lean face, gray hair. He was in the camp throughout the reported time. In the beginning he refused to work and was frequently punished for this refusal. At last, exhausted by continuous maltreatment and starvation, he gave way and did work. He occasionally gave masses to individual prisoners.

i. GERDES, Hungarian, about fifty six (56) years, 180 cm tall, large head, strong smoker. He was a former ministerial director in Hungary. He was released at the same time as S.

j. Wilhelm AHRENDTS, German, from BERLIN, about forty eight (48) years old, married, two (2) children, staying in camp after S was released. His academic rank was Dr. Philosophy.

k. Dr. Heinrich GEISSMANN, from BERLIN, about forty nine (49) years old, stout figure, wearing glasses; he was released together with S.

l. Hans SCHMIDT (or SCHMITT), journalist of a newspaper in GIESSEN (5035N/0839E), about twenty three (23) years old, 170 cm tall, very lean face, slim figure, fair hair. He arrived in the camp in spring 51 and died in Feb 52 after an accident.

m. Dr. Phil Walter PICHEL, Austrian, about forty five (45) years old, linguist, speaking and writing Chinese. He was already in the camp when S arrived and disappeared in summer 52 together with the other Austrians who reportedly were released. Dr. PICHEL said he had been Austrian Minister of Culture for two (2) or three (3) days immediately after WW II.

n. Willi FOERSTER, Austrian from VIENNA (4812N/1622E), actor, about fifty (50) years old, 167 m tall, long face. He said if anybody wished to meet him in VIENNA, he had only to see the people of the THEATERRING (theater ring) in order to find him there. He was released in summer 52.

o. LEOPOLD REITH, Austrian from VIENNA, sometimes posing as German national. He was a dentist by profession, married to a woman of East Prussia. He was about thirty three (33) years old, often making a helpless impression so that he was the laughing stock of the other prisoners, but very intelligent. Sentenced to twenty five (25) years, he was released in summer 52 with the other Austrians.

p. ALFRED SKORZENY, born on 12 Sep 1901, Austrian, brother of the SS officer who liberated MUSSOLINI. He was allegedly sentenced to twenty five (25) years because of his brother's deed. S remembered his birthday because it coincided with his own. He disappeared in summer 52 together with the other Austrians.

25. On 1 May 50, S's camp was converted into a so-called REGIME LAGER (Regime Camp). Although supervision was now more stringent and the organizational measures of the camp carried out more rigorously, conditions for political prisoners improved in so far as they were no longer exposed to the terror of their criminal co-prisoners. The prisoners were no longer allowed to wear civilian clothes. Each prisoner got a number on his clothes with the letter R. From Jan 52 onward, the prisoners were paid wages for their work. Earnings in excess of 300 rubles were not paid out but credited on the prisoner's account. These earnings were actually paid to the prisoners after their release. S witnessed this in TAPIAU, when some prisoners were paid up to 12,000 rubles. From 1 April 1953 onward, there were only two (2) different types of meals issued to the prisoners as opposed to seven (7) different meals before. From Apr 53 onward the

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bread for the meal was issued without restriction in quantity, i.e. each prisoner could eat as much as he wished but he was not allowed to carry it away. Early in 53, the camp commander had each prisoner sign a statement by which he was informed that henceforth the slaying of a co-prisoner would result in a kind of court martial trial and immediate execution. Before this it had happened frequently that those who had slain another prisoner got nothing more than two (2) more years in addition to their twenty five (25) years, so that there was practically no punishment at all. The practice of guards imposing penalties in putting prisoners into an arrest cell was also discontinued. Only the responsible officer could mete out such punishment. There was a rumor in 53 that the penal labor camps would no longer be administered by the Ministry of the Interior but by the Soviet of Justice. In summer 52 all BLATNOYS (hardened criminals) were removed from S's camp. Those who were left were either political prisoners or petty criminals.

F. VOICE OF AMERICA:

S had no direct knowledge of civilians listening to the VOA or any other foreign radio station. However, there were indications that foreign newscasts were being listened to. Certain news events which were not published in the Soviet papers and radio stations came to S's attention. He remembered one (1) speech of CHURCHILL in which he had accused the Soviet military supreme commander in POLAND of having his hands in the Korean war. Experts of this speech were being spread from mouth to mouth in the VORKUTA area. It was general knowledge among the inmates of S's camp that there were both radio receivers and clandestine transmitters in private apartments of VORKUTA. S witnessed a house search at some distance in the village of RUTNIK in which connection it was rumored that the searchers were looking for an illegal transmitting station. S had his knowledge about the transmitters also from free civilians.

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